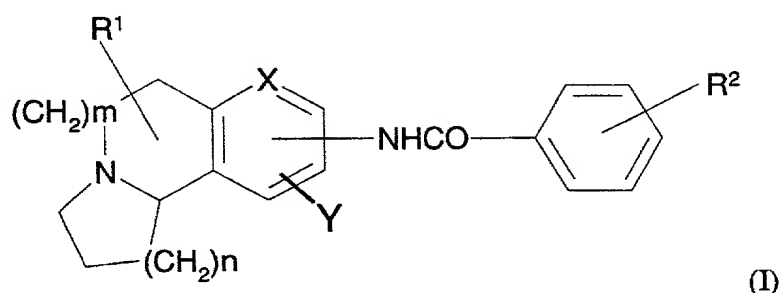


Claims

1. Accordingly, the present invention provides a compound of formula (I) or salt thereof or solvate thereof:

5



in which;

m is 1 or 2;

10

n is 1 or 2;

X is CH or N;

Y is selected from hydrogen, halogen, cyano, CF₃, alkyl or alkoxy;

15 R¹, which may be at any position within the saturated ring system, is hydrogen or up to two substituents which may be the same or different and each of which is selected from fluoro and C₁₋₆ alkyl;

R² is hydrogen or up to four substituents selected from halogen, NO₂, CN, N₃,

CF₃O-, CF₃S-, CF₃CO-, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkenyl, C₁₋₆alkynyl,

C₁₋₆perfluoroalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkyl-, C₁₋₆alkylO-,

C₁₋₆alkylCO-, C₃₋₆cycloalkylO-, C₃₋₆cycloalkylCO-,

20 C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkylO-, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl-C₁₋₄alkylCO-, phenyl, phenoxy,

benzyloxy, benzoyl, phenyl-C₁₋₄alkyl-, C₁₋₆alkylS-, C₁₋₆alkylSO₂-,

(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂NSO₂-, (C₁₋₄alkyl)NHSO₂-, (C₁₋₄alkyl)₂NCO-, oxazolyl,

(C₁₋₄alkyl)NHCO-, CONH₂;

or R⁴CONH- or -NR⁴R⁵

25 wherein R⁴ is hydrogen or C₁₋₄ alkyl, and;

R⁵ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, formyl, -CO₂C₁₋₄alkyl or -COC₁₋₄alkyl;

or two R² groups are linked together form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring that is saturated or unsaturated and unsubstituted or substituted by -OH or =O.

30 2. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein:

R¹ is hydrogen, fluoro, methyl, ethyl or propyl;

R² is hydrogen or one or more of methyl, ethyl, *n*-butyl, phenyl, *iso*-propyl, *t*-butyl, methoxy, ethoxy, *n*-propoxy, *iso*-propoxy, *n*-butoxy, phenoxy, benzyloxy, bromo, chloro, iodo, fluoro, nitro, cyano, acetyl, pivaloyl, *iso*-butyryl, benzoyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoroacetyl, amino, acetylamino, methylthio, oxazolo, methylsulfonyl, *n*-propylsulfonyl, isopropylsulfonyl or dimethylsulfamoyl.

3. A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein:

10 R¹ is hydrogen, and;

R² is hydrogen or one or more of ethyl, methoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, chloro, fluoro.

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 selected from:

15 3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;

3-bromo-4-ethyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-benzamide;

20 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;

3-bromo-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;

3-bromo-4-ethoxy-N-(1,3,4,6,7,11b-hexahydro-2H-pyrido[2,1-a]isoquinolin-10-yl)benzamide;

25 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-propionylbenzamide;

N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-ethoxy-3-propionylbenzamide;

3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;

30 3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;

3-fluoro-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;

3,5-dichloro-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;

35 3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-propoxybenzamide;

3-butyryl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;

- 3-*iso*-butyryl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropylbenzamide;
- 5 4-oxo-chroman-6-carboxylic acid (1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)amide;
N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxy-3-propionylbenzamide;
N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-isobutyryl-4-methoxybenzamide;
- 10 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-ethoxy-3-isobutyrylbenzamide;
N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-ethoxy-3-fluorobenzamide;
- 15 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxy-3-fluorobenzamide;
3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
3-cyano-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-
- 20 benzamide;
N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-propionyl-4-propoxybenzamide;
3-acetyl-4-ethyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
- 25 3-acetyl-4-chloro-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
3-acetyl-4-bromo-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
3-acetyl-5-bromo-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
- 30 3-cyano-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
- 35 3-acetyl-4-acetyl-amino-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropylbenzamide;

- N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-propionyl-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 3-acetyl-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-benzamide;
- 5 3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;
 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;
 3-fluoro-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-
- 10 benzamide;
 4-ethoxy-3-fluoro-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
 3-butyryl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-propoxybenzamide;
- 15 3-butyryl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-propoxybenzamide;
 3-butyryl-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-
- 20 yl)benzamide;
 3-*iso*-butyryl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-propoxybenzamide;
 3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-*iso*-propoxybenzamide;
- 25 3-chloro-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-*iso*-propoxybenzamide;
 3-cyano-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-*isopropyl*benzamide;
 3-bromo-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-*iso*-
- 30 propoxybenzamide;
 5-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-2-methoxy-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-pivaloylbenzamide;
 N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-2-methoxy-4-
- 35 isopropyl-5-trifluoromethylbenzamide;
 naphthalene-2-carboxylic acid (1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)amide;
 benzothiazole-5-carboxylic acid (1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)amide;

- 2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-carboxylic acid (1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)carboxamide;
 3-acetyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 5 3-chloro-4-ethoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)benzamide;
 N-3-(N, N-dimethylcarboxamido)-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;
 10 3-bromo-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-ethoxybenzamide;
 3-bromo-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 15 3-cyano-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropylbenzamide;
 3-acetyl-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-fluoro-4-methoxybenzamide;
 20 N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-fluoro-4-ethoxybenzamide;
 N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-fluoro-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 25 3-cyano-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;
 3-acetyl-N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxybenzamide;
 N-(6,6-dimethyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-3-fluoro-4-methoxybenzamide;
 30 N-(7-chloro-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;
 10b-methyl-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;
 35 3-bromo-N-4-ethoxy(6-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;
 N-(6-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;

N-(5-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;

3-acetyl-N-(5-methyl-1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-9-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;

5 3-acetyl-N-(2,3,5,6,7,11b-hexahydro-1H-benzo[c]pyrrolo[1,2-a]azepin-10-yl)-4-isopropoxybenzamide;

N-(2,3,5,6,7,11b-hexahydro-1H-benzo[c]pyrrolo[1,2-a]azepin-10-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide;

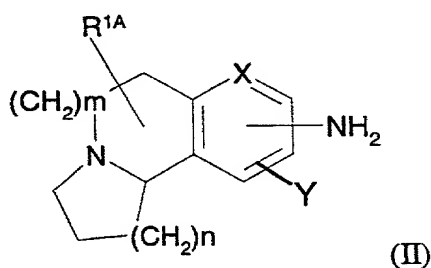
4-*tert*-butyl-2-methoxy-N-(1,2,3,5,6,10b-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-7-yl)benzamide;

5-cyano-2-ethoxy-4-isopropyl-N-(2,3,5,6,6a,10a,10b-octahydro-1H-pyrrolo[2,1-a]isoquinolin-7-yl)benzamide, and;

N-(5,6,8,9,10,10a-hexahydropyrrolo[2,1-f][1,6]naphthridin-2-yl)-4-methoxy-3-trifluoromethylbenzamide.

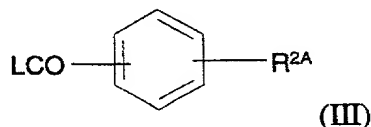
15

5. A process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or salts thereof or solvates thereof, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (II)



20

with a compound of formula (III)



25

where R^{1A} and R^{2A} are R^1 and R^2 respectively as defined for formula (I) as defined in claim 1 or a group or groups convertible to R^1 or R^2 groups; and L is OH, acyloxy, or a halogen, and where required;

30 converting an R^{1A} or R^{2A} group to an R^1 or R^2 group;

converting one R¹ or R² group to another R¹ or R² group;
converting a salt product to the free base or another pharmaceutically acceptable salt;
or converting a free base product to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

5

6. A pharmaceutical composition for use in the treatment and/or prophylaxis of anxiety, mania, depression, panic disorders and/or aggression, disorders associated with a subarachnoid haemorrhage or neural shock, the effects associated with withdrawal from substances of abuse such as cocaine, nicotine, alcohol and benzodiazepines, disorders treatable and/or preventable with anti-convulsive agents, such as epilepsy including post-traumatic epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, psychosis, migraine, cerebral ischaemia, Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative diseases such as Huntingdon's chorea, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD), neurological deficits associated with AIDS, sleep disorders (including circadian rhythm disorders, insomnia & narcolepsy), tics (e.g. Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome), traumatic brain injury, tinnitus, neuralgia, especially trigeminal neuralgia, neuropathic pain, dental pain, cancer pain, inappropriate neuronal activity resulting in neurodysthesias in diseases such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis (MS) and motor neurone disease, ataxias, muscular rigidity (spasticity), temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) which comprises a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
7. Use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate, thereof as a therapeutic agent, in particular for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of anxiety, mania, depression, panic disorders and/or aggression, disorders associated with a subarachnoid haemorrhage or neural shock, the effects associated with withdrawal from substances of abuse such as cocaine, nicotine, alcohol and benzodiazepines, disorders treatable and/or preventable with anti-convulsive agents, such as epilepsy including post-traumatic epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, psychosis, migraine, cerebral ischaemia, Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative diseases such as Huntingdon's chorea, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorders (OCD), neurological deficits associated with AIDS, sleep disorders (including circadian rhythm disorders, insomnia & narcolepsy), tics (e.g. Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome), traumatic brain injury, tinnitus, neuralgia, especially trigeminal neuralgia, neuropathic pain, dental pain, cancer pain, inappropriate neuronal activity resulting in neurodysthesias in diseases such as diabetes,

multiple sclerosis (MS) and motor neurone disease, ataxias, muscular rigidity (spasticity), temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

- 5 8. Use of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a
pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, for the manufacture of a
medicament for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of anxiety, mania, depression,
panic disorders and/or aggression, disorders associated with a subarachnoid
haemorrhage or neural shock, the effects associated with withdrawal from
10 substances of abuse such as cocaine, nicotine, alcohol and benzodiazepines,
disorders treatable and/or preventable with anti-convulsive agents, such as
epilepsy including post-traumatic epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, psychosis,
migraine, cerebral ischaemia, Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative diseases
such as Huntingdon's chorea, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorders
15 (OCD), neurological deficits associated with AIDS, sleep disorders (including
circadian rhythm disorders, insomnia & narcolepsy), tics (e.g. Gilles de la
Tourette's syndrome), traumatic brain injury, tinnitus, neuralgia, especially
trigeminal neuralgia, neuropathic pain, dental pain, cancer pain, inappropriate
neuronal activity resulting in neurodysthesias in diseases such as diabetes,
20 multiple sclerosis (MS) and motor neurone disease, ataxias, muscular rigidity
(spasticity), temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and amyotrophic lateral
sclerosis (ALS).

9. A method of treatment and/or prophylaxis of anxiety, mania, depression,
25 panic disorders and/or aggression, disorders associated with a subarachnoid
haemorrhage or neural shock, the effects associated with withdrawal from
substances of abuse such as cocaine, nicotine, alcohol and benzodiazepines,
disorders treatable and/or preventable with anti-convulsive agents, such as
epilepsy including post-traumatic epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, psychosis,
30 migraine, cerebral ischaemia, Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative diseases
such as Huntingdon's chorea, schizophrenia, obsessive compulsive disorders
(OCD), neurological deficits associated with AIDS, sleep disorders (including
circadian rhythm disorders, insomnia & narcolepsy), tics (e.g. Gilles de la
Tourette's syndrome), traumatic brain injury, tinnitus, neuralgia, especially
35 trigeminal neuralgia, neuropathic pain, dental pain, cancer pain, inappropriate
neuronal activity resulting in neurodysthesias in diseases such as diabetes,
multiple sclerosis (MS) and motor neurone disease, ataxias, muscular rigidity
(spasticity), temporomandibular joint dysfunction, and amyotrophic lateral
sclerosis (ALS), comprising administering to the sufferer in need thereof an

effective or prophylactic amount of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.